

SAVE HORSMONDEN FAIR

Secretary
Suzanna Hersey
Avalon
Brenchley Road
HORSMONDEN, Kent
Phone: 0189 2723 653

MINUTES of the meeting held on
Sunday, September 17th, 2000

Present:

Suzanna Hersey and Eddie, Albert Coates (Swanley), Freddie Collins (Berthersten), Brian Frankham (NRRA), Natalie Frankham, Jake Bowers (NRRA), Grattan Puxon (Gypsy Council), Emma (FFT, Brighton), Joe Day (video archivist).

Welcome and apologies:

Suzie welcomed everyone to her home and acknowledged apologies from Eli Frankham, Tom Lee and Johnny Wine.

She then went on to outline her impressions of the way Kent Constabulary had overreacted on Hop Picking Sunday (Sept 10th) and denied Romanies the right to come into the village and take part in the parade, or just watch, and even stopping her guests come to her private family gathering.

Suzie reported that Karen Walsh and her father had come out in favour of the Fair, that Karen was getting up a petition and that many people in the village wanted the Fair to go on next year. She said there was to be a public meeting and Parish Council meeting on Monday (next day).

After some discussion and concern expressed by Suzie that Romanies should not be seen to be intimidating anybody, it was agreed Joe Day should speak at the meeting on behalf of the Save Horsmonden Fair campaign.

Human Rights Court

Jake Bowers passed around a circular he had done urging those who had been at Horsmonden on the day of the ban to make statement and contact Liberty. Grattan Puxon passed out information about the ongoing preparing being made by the Community Law Partnership in Birmingham to apply for a hearing by the European Court of Human Rights.

Commemoration/Human Rights Act

Grattan Puxon proposed that a Commemoration of Romanies who had given their lives for Freedom in the 1st and 2nd World Wars should take place at 12 noon at the War Memorial, Horsmonden, on Sunday, October 1st, 12 hours before the coming into effect of the Human Rights Act (2nd October).

It was agreed to arrange a parade of horse-drawn vehicles along the exact route where they were stopped by police roadblocks on 10th September, to establish our right to use of the public highway and Freedom of Movement; that everyone participating should bring flowers and wreaths to lay at the War Memorial.